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have to say in language that will be readily understood by the class of men for whom we write. We believe it possible to infuse life and interest into subjects which concern the men who toil for a livelihood with hammer, saw, and plane, and as we labor for the people who work with their hands as well as with their heads, we expect to augment our subscription list to mammoth proportions during the year of 1879.

Our Illustrations.

ON the front page we show two doors with carved work on the panels. These doors are designed so that they can be built and finished without the carved additions, or in place of the elaborate work shown any tasteful design may be substituted.

Plate 2 shows the instruments used in the sectorian system of hand-railing, and is fully explained in another place.

On Plate 3 we show a writing-table—elevation and ground plan. This makes a fine office desk, and is not so elaborate but that any good joiner can make it. It would look very well made of white ash with walnut trimmings.

Plate 4 shows section of staircase with newels, balusters, and doors. It will be noticed that the lower newel is placed one step back, so as to give more room in the hall near the door at the foot of the stairs. This feature is worthy of note, inasmuch as it permits of the lower step being placed very near to the door opening without causing inconvenience.

Plate 5 shows a very handsome bookcase and writing-table combined. The design is excellent, and our readers will find many things about it that are worth imitating; we have reproduced it from the *Workshop*.

Plate 6 is illustrative of the article on practical carpentry, which will be found in another column.

Plate 7 shows a method of obtaining the length and curve of a mansard hip. We are indebted for this plate to our esteemed correspondent "Alonzo."

Plate 8 shows a very neat bookcase, one that can be made by any good joiner or carpenter; this would also make a very convenient kitchen cupboard if shorn of a part of the adornments. It will be noticed that the central part, surmounted by the pediment, projects a few inches from the face of the work.

We shall be pleased to receive drawings, for reproduction, of furniture, joiner's work, special tools and appliances, or any thing of interest, from any of our readers.

Isometric Projection.

THIS is a conventional method of representing an object, in which it has somewhat the

appearance of a perspective drawing, with the advantage of the lines situated in the three visible planes at right angles to each other, retaining their exact dimensions. For the representation of such objects, therefore, as have their principal parts in planes at right angles to each other, this kind of projection is particularly well adapted.

Without going into the principles and details of this subject exhaustively here, enough will be explained by illustration to enable the pupil, beginning by imitation of copies, to serve himself sufficiently until he studies the subject fully. The name *isometrical* was given to this method of projection by Professor Farish, of Cambridge, England.

The principle of isometric representation consists in selecting for the plane of the projection one equally inclined to three principal axes, at right angles to each other, so that all straight lines coincident with or parallel to these axes are drawn in projection to the same scale.

The axes are called isometric axes, and all lines parallel to them are called isometric lines. The planes containing the isometric axes are isometric planes; the point in the object projected, assumed as the origin of the axes, is called the regulating point.

(To be continued.)

The Sectorian System of Hand-Railing.

AMONG the many systems of hand-railing that have been introduced within the last fifty years, no one is better adapted to the capacity of the average workman than the system invented by the late William Forbes, architect, Richmond, Va., and published by him in 1873 in book form under the title of "The Sectorian System of Hand-Railing." The work was deserving of much more success than it met with at the time of its publication, for it possesses merits that the practical workman would readily appreciate if he was better acquainted with it. It is not claimed that by this system a better rail can be produced than by other systems; but it is claimed that by the sectorian system a stair-rail can be produced, of any size or shape that may be required, in less time, and from less material, than by any method laid down in any work on the subject; and that a knowledge of hand-railing can be acquired in a shorter space of time. This system requires the use of neither gauge nor elliptic curves, no piece or wreath wider in one part than another, and no piece thicker than the width of the rail.

We are pleased to be able to inform our readers that we have made such arrangements with the executors of the late Mr. Forbes as will enable us to publish, during the year, the whole system—text and plates—with such